

ATTORNEY DOCKET
065123.0106

PATENT APPLICATION
09/398,987

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✓ Claims 1-41 and 45 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

8/18/02
42. (Three Times Amended) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a shank with a hook disposed at a first end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of the shank, the fishing apparatus comprising:

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- a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;
- the eye having a generally circular configuration defined in part by a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from the shank to permanently form a gap disposed between the distal end of the eye and the shank;
- the gap size to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;
- the sliding loop knot operable to releasably engage and disengage the fishing line with the eye of the fishing device;
- a blocker formed on the eye as an integral part thereof without crossing the shank with the blocker;
- the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop from sliding off of the eye;
- the sliding loop having a diameter which may be decreased by movement of the sliding loop knot to releasably engage the fishing line with the eye by clinching the sliding loop against the eye and which may be increased by movement of the sliding loop knot to allow movement of the sliding loop over the blocker and disengagement of the sliding loop from the eye;
- the sliding loop knot defined in part by a first loop and a second loop disposed adjacent to each other and adjacent to a central portion of the fishing line;
- a free end of the fishing line wrapped multiple times around the central portion and through the first loop and the second loop and drawn away from the first loop and the second loop to form the sliding loop knot on the first end of the fishing line; and
- the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device.

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43. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the fishing line further comprises:
a first section having a first end and a second end;
a second section having a first end and a second end;
the sliding loop formed on the first end of the first section; and
the second end of the first section releasably engaged with the first end of the
second section.

44. The fishing apparatus of Claim 43 further comprising:
a first fixed loop formed on the second end of the first section;
a second fixed loop formed on the first end of the second section; and
the first fixed loop and the second fixed loop releasably engaged with each
other.

Please cancel Claim 46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

47. The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 further comprising the blocker projecting
outward with respect to the distal end.

48. (New) The fishing apparatus of Claim 42 wherein the blocker further
comprises a barb.

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49. (New) A fishing apparatus including a fishing device defined in part by a
shank with a hook disposed at one end of the shank and an eye disposed at a second end of
the shank, the apparatus comprising:

a fishing line having a first end with a sliding loop formed on the first end of
the fishing line by a sliding loop knot;

the eye having a distal end disposed adjacent to and permanently spaced from
the shank to accommodate engagement and disengagement of the sliding loop with the eye;

a blocker formed on the eye without any portion of the eye or the blocker
crossing the shank;

the blocker projecting from the distal end of the eye to prevent the sliding loop
from sliding off of the eye;